

What is a California marine protected area (or "MPA")?

An MPA is a type of managed area primarily set aside to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in marine or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection, and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. Fishing and collecting are banned at marine reserves such as Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve, providing this MPA with the highest level of protection.

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine reserve?

One of the goals for Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve is to protect the rocky intertidal zone, nearshore reefs, seagrass beds, and kelp forests found there. Kelp beds are interspersed with offshore islands and sea stacks, remnants of an earlier shoreline. Blue rockfish, kelp greenling, gopher rockfish, and cabezon hunt and shelter in the kelp forest, and crabs, sea stars, and abalone feed along the rocky seafloor. The rocky intertidal zone also harbors seagrass and kelp, and numerous species of invertebrates and fish. Giant green anemones are found in rocky tidepools while California mussels form large black beds that can be spotted from the bluffs. The mussels are often interspersed with acorn barnacles, and surrounded by colorful ochre sea stars. Harbor seals and California sea lions haul out on the rocky reef to rest after feeding.

Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve replaced the earlier protected area, Del Mar Ecological Reserve, to better protect nearshore fish, abalone, and their habitat. Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters

Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



Quick Facts: Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 0.22 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 0.7 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 87 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Rock: 0.41 square miles
 - Sand/mud: 0.05 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



No Fishing



No Collecting

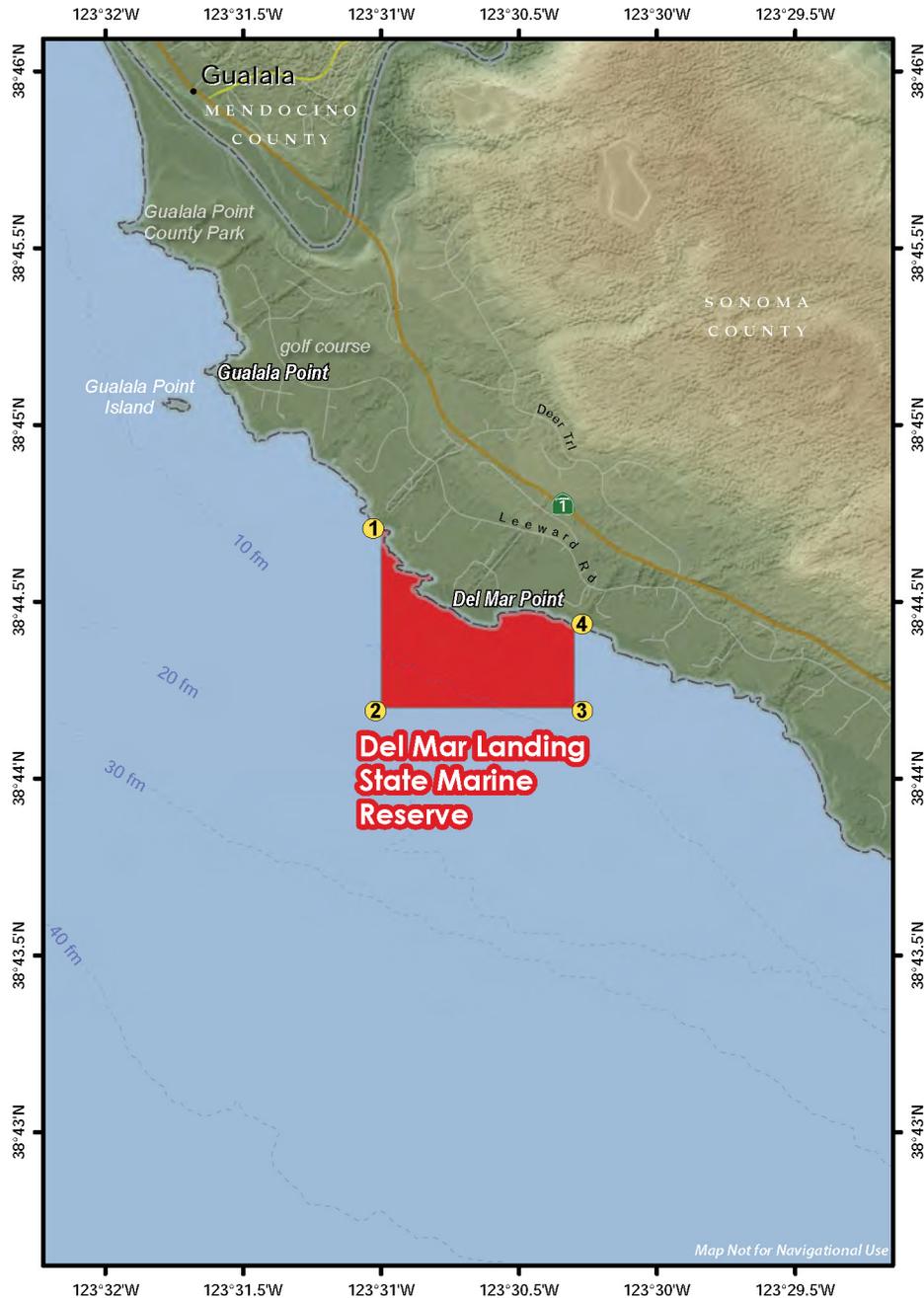
Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve, photo © Leslie Kashiwada. Lower right: Giant green anemone in a tidepool at the reserve, photo © Jen Palladini, CC BY-NC 2.0. Lower left: Harbor seal mother and pup, and mussel beds at the reserve, photo © Karen & Mike, CC BY 2.0.

Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve

North Central California - Sonoma County



Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 38° 44.706' N. lat. 123° 31.000' W. long. ①;
- 38° 44.200' N. lat. 123° 31.000' W. long. ②;
- 38° 44.200' N. lat. 123° 30.300' W. long. ③; and
- 38° 44.430' N. lat. 123° 30.300' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.



Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/CCR-T14-MPAs.